

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-53 (canceled)

54. (New) A medical device to treat the heart, comprising:
a plurality of hinge elements arranged to impart compressive force on the heart during diastole and systole; and
the hinge elements being configured to be delivered minimally invasively.
55. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements extend circumferentially around the heart and are self-sizing.
56. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements extend circumferentially around the heart and are self-attaching.
57. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements extend circumferentially around the heart and are self-tensioning.
58. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements extend circumferentially around the heart and are self-adhering.
59. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements generate a compressive force on the heart of not more than 10 mm Hg.

60. (New) The medical device of claim 59, wherein the hinge elements have a compliance that increases as a function of increased stretch.

61. (New) The medical device of claim 59, wherein the hinge elements have a compliance that does not decrease as a function of increased stretch.

62. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are formed into strips that extend circumferentially around the heart.

63. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are formed into strips that are compressible to a low profile, minimally invasive delivery diameter.

64. (New) The medical device of claim 63, wherein the strips are self-adjusting so that the strips can slide over the epicardial surface of the heart and self-adjust to contact the heart.

65. (New) The medical device of claim 63, wherein the strips are self-expanding from the low profile, minimally invasive delivery diameter to an expanded diameter that self-adjusts to the shape of the heart.

66. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are formed from Nitinol.

67. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are elastic and have a deformed shape and a recovered shape when a load is applied and removed respectively.

68. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access between the patient's ribs.

69. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access subcostally.

70. (New) The medical device of claim 54, wherein the hinge elements are compressible to a delivery diameter no greater than minimally invasive access percutaneously through the skin.